AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-25 (canceled).

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method for reducing electrical disturbance of a cell's resting membrane potential comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a composition comprising an effective amount of **(i)** a local anaesthetic**;** and ~~**of one or more of**~~ **(ii) at least one of** a potassium channel opener, an adenosine receptor agonist, an anti-adrenergic, a calcium antagonist, an opioid, an NO donor and a sodium hydrogen exchange inhibitor**, said composition further comprising a physiological potassium concentration**.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method for reducing damage to a cell, tissue or organ following ischaemia comprising administering to the cell, tissue or organ an effective amount of a composition comprising an effective amount of **(i)** a local anaesthetic**;** and ~~**of one or more of**~~ **(ii) at least one of** a potassium channel opener, an adenosine receptor agonist, an anti-adrenergic, a calcium antagonist, an opioid, an NO donor and a sodium hydrogen exchange inhibitor**, said composition further comprising a physiological potassium concentration**.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method for preconditioning a cell or tissue during ischaemia or reperfusion comprising administering an effective amount of a composition comprising an effective amount of **(i)** a local anaesthetic**;** and ~~**of one or more of**~~ **(ii) at least one of** a potassium channel opener, an adenosine receptor agonist, an anti-adrenergic, a calcium antagonist, an opioid, an NO donor and a sodium hydrogen exchange inhibitor**, said composition further comprising a physiological potassium concentration**.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for reducing damage to a cell, organ or tissue before, during and following a surgical or clinical intervention comprising administering to the cell, organ or tissue an effective amount of a composition comprising an effective amount of **(i)** a local anaesthetic**;** and ~~**of one or more of**~~ **(ii) at least one of** a potassium channel opener, an adenosine receptor agonist, an anti-adrenergic, a calcium antagonist, an opioid, an NO donor and a sodium hydrogen exchange inhibitor**, said composition further comprising a physiological potassium concentration**.

Claim 30 (withdrawn – currently amended): A method according to claim 27 wherein the anti-adrenergic is selected from beta-blockers, ~~**such as esmolol, atenolol, metoprolol and propranolol**~~ and alpha(1)-adrenoceptor-antagonists ~~**such as prazosin**~~.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method according to claim 27 wherein the opioid is selected from enkephalins, endorphins and dynorphins~~**, preferably an enkephalin which targets delta, kappa and/or mu receptors**~~.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to claim 27 wherein the opioid is a delta opioid receptor agonist.

Claim 33 (withdrawn – currently amended): A method according to claim 27 wherein the calcium antagonist is selected from Amlodipine, nifedipine, nicardipine, nimodipine, nisoldipine, lercanidipine, telodipine, angizem, altiazem, bepridil, amlodipine, felodipine, mibefradil, isradipine, cavero, Bay K 8644(L-type)(1,4-dihydro-26-dimethyl-5-nitro-[2(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3-pyridine carboxylic acid (methyl ester)), calciseptine (L-type), omega-conotoxin GVIA (N-type), omega-conotoxin MVIIC (Q-type), cyproheptadine HCl, dantrolene sodium, diltiazem HCl (L-type), filodipine, flunarizine HCl (Ca^{2+}/Na^{+}), fluspirilene (L-type), HA-1077 2HCl(1-(5 isoquinolinyl sulphonyl) homo piperazine.HCl), isradipine, loperamide HCl, manoalide, niguldipine HCl (L-type), nitrendipine (L-type), pimozide (L- and T-type), ruthenium red, ryanodine (SR channels), taicatoxin, verapamil HCl (L-type), Azelnidipine (L-type) methoxy-verapamil HCl (L-

type), YS-035 HCl (L-type)N[2(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-3,4-dimethoxy N-nethyl benzene ethaneamine HCl) and calcium antagonists with AV blocking actions~~, such as verapamil~~.

Claim 34 (withdrawn – currently amended): A method according to claim 27 wherein NO donor is either nitric-oxide synthase independent ~~(such as nitroprusside, nitro-glycerine, flurbiprofen or its NO-donating derivative, HCT1026 (2-fluoro-a-methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid and 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester)~~ or nitric-oxide synthase-dependent ~~(such as regulator calcium calmodulin and L-arginine)~~.

Claim 35 (withdrawn – currently amended): A method according to claim 27 wherein the sodium hydrogen exchange inhibitor is selected from amiloride, cariporide, eniporide, triamterene and EMD 84021, EMD 94309, EMD 96785, ~~HOE 642~~ and T-162559.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A method according to claim 27 wherein the cell is a myocyte, endothelial cell, smooth-muscle cell, neutrophil, platelet and other inflammatory cells, or the tissue is heart tissue or vasculature, or the organ is a heart.

Claim 37 (canceled).

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method according to claim 27 wherein the composition further comprises one or more of an antioxidant, ionic magnesium, an impermeant and a metabolic substrate.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method according to claim 27 wherein the composition has been oxygenated.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A method according to claim 27 comprising administering the composition as part of a medicament including the composition and a

~~**blood-based or crystalloid carrier**~~ **pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, adjuvant and/or excipient**.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method according to claim 40 wherein the medicament has concentrations of one or more of sodium, calcium and chloride lower than physiological concentrations.

Claim 42 (canceled).

Claim 43 (previously presented): A method according to claim 27 wherein the composition is at a temperature of profound hypothermia (0 to 4 degrees Celsius), moderate hypothermia (5 to 20 degrees Celsius), mild hypothermia (20 to 32 degrees Celsius) or normothermia (32 to 38 degrees Celsius).

Claim 44 (previously presented): A method according to claim 27 wherein the components of the medicament or composition are combined before administration or when the components are administered substantially simultaneously or co-administered.

Claim 45 (canceled).

Claim 46 (new): A method according to claim 30, wherein the alpha(1)-adrenoceptor-antagonist is prazosin.

Claim 47 (new): A method according to claim 30, wherein the beta-blocker is selected from esmolol, atenolol, metoprolol and propranolol.

Claim 48 (new): A method according to claim 31, wherein the opioid is an enkephalin which targets delta, alpha and/or mu receptors.

Claim 49 (new): A method according to claim 31, wherein the opioid is DPDPE.

Claim 50 (new): A method according to claim 33, wherein the calcium antagonist is verapamil.

Claim 51 (new): A method according to claim 34, wherein the nitric-oxide synthase independent NO donor is selected from nitroprusside, nitro-glycerine, flurbiprofen or its NO-donating derivative, HCT1026 (2-fluoro-a-methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid and 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester.

Claim 52 (new): A method according to claim 30, wherein the nitric-oxide synthase dependent No-donor is regulator calcium calmodulin and L-arginine.